

ALLIES IN STRIKING DISTANCE OF THE 'HINDENBURG LINE'
Retreating German Armies Are Approaching Their Proposed Goal.

French troops pushing hard on the heels of the retreating Germans are today within striking distance of the "Hindenburg line", the supposed goal of their retreating foe. The milestones on this line are the historic towns of Lisle, Cambrai, St. Quentin, Laon and La Fere.

The troops of General Nivelle were rushing towards St. Quentin yesterday at a rate almost unprecedented in the present world war and had reached a point within five miles of the city. Unless some unheralded factor has entered into the situation, the French have by this time either entered St. Quentin, or the German retreat has halted.

In the meantime, to the north the British are doggedly pushing forward toward Cambrai, and are apparently within striking distance of that town, the heart of the Lille-La Fere line, and famous since the days of the Romans. The British are advancing more slowly than the French, but nothing either in the official reports from Paris or in the unofficial stories of newspaper correspondents at the front indicates that either army has yet come in contact with the main German forces.

The theory that the Germans propose to halt their retreat on the Hindenburg line has been put forward by military critics in the allied capitals, but there has been no indication from Berlin of the plans of the German general staff, and the purpose and meaning of the dramatic retreat of the invaders, which remains clothed in considerable mystery.

French military observers estimate that the German retirement has already released 150,000 to 200,000 troops who are available for a long predicted counter offensive to be launched against the allies' lines at some speculative point. The Paris newspapers regard some such move on the part of von Hindenburg as almost certain, and as for the probability of clearing the way to Calais.

On the Somme the initiative consists of apparently sporadic fighting, as also in the Champagne district and Verdun front. Nothing has developed in either of these directions to indicate an offensive on a scale great enough to offset the sensational evacuation of a thousand or more square miles in Picardy.

Resolutions of Respect.

Hall of Copeland Council Jr. O. U. A. M. March 17, 1917. The Council being in regular session adopted the following resolution:

Whereas, Almighty God in his wisdom has seen fit to remove from our midst our beloved brother Walter C. Layne, and whereas, it is the duty of this Council to show our love and esteem therefore be it resolved:

First, that while we bow in humble submission to the will of Him who doeth all things well, we sadly feel the loss of a faithful member and a quiet, good citizen.

Second, that we extend to the family our heartfelt sympathy in the loss of a kind and affectionate son and brother, but we realize their loss is his eternal gain, and we commend them to Him whose love and mercy knows no end.

Third, that these resolutions be entered on our minutes, a copy sent to the bereaved family, and a copy to The Mount Airy News for publication.

D. D. Shelton, Joe Dobson, T. W. Snow, Committee.

Missionaries in China

Secure Numerous Converts.

Pekin, Feb. 28.—Christian converts among Chinese number 35,298,908, according to a report just submitted to the ministers of foreign affairs and the interior by a committee which investigated religious conditions in the republic.

The figures given include both Catholics and Protestants. In all there are 2,717 Christian churches in China, and 4,288 chapels. Eight Bible societies are working in the republic. Missionaries have established 181 hospitals and medical schools. Nine missionary colleges are in existence. Middle schools established by the missionaries number 171, and 2,557 primary schools have been established under missionary direction. In addition there are many Young Men's Christian association branches in the principal cities in China.

All in all there are 1,836 male foreign missionaries, and 2,716 female foreign missionaries. In the native Christian church there are 902 native preachers, 8,381 native assistants, and 1,108 native Bible women. The teachers in mission schools number 2,799, and the students in these schools number 186,190. Physicians employed in mission hospitals number 388.

SAFETY OF THE CZAR'S FAMILY IS GUARANTEED

Emperor Reported to Have Contemplated Suicide on Being Refused to See Wife.

London, March 18.—What most perturbed Emperor Nicholas says the Petrograd correspondent of the Times, was that sufficient guarantees had been given that his life and those of his family be spared. It is said he was reassured by General Ruzsky, who vouched in the name of the whole army under his command, that no harm should befall any member of the family.

The first request made by the emperor was that he be allowed to see his wife, but this was refused point blank. There are reports that he even contemplated suicide, but eventually was induced by his confessor to accept his fortunes calmly and submit to the inevitable. His last words as emperor are said to have been that he had been betrayed by those he trusted most.

The Times' correspondent says he has been told the former ruler will have to reside in the fauruis palace in Crimea with his family but eventually will be allowed to go abroad to some entente allied country, probably Italy.

The revolution overtook the imperial family when all of the children, except the Grand Duchess Marie, were afflicted with measles. Grand Duke Alexis, the 12-year-old erstwhile heir, who was reported dead, still lives, but is very ill.

His attack of measles was complicated by the breaking out of the old wound in his foot, dating from the alleged attempt on his life about four years ago. He was reported today as likely to recover. He contracted the malady from a comrade at the front.

Grand Duchess Tatiana is in a serious condition and oxygen has been administered. News of the disaffection of the troops reached the empress February 27. The palace guard was mobilized for defense, the riflemen remaining inside the palace with machine guns, while outside were armored motors.

When the Tasarskoe Selo garrison revolted a collision with the palace guards appeared inevitable. The empress went to the commander of the guard and said: "My desire is that you do not fire."

This was taken as an order to surrender, which he did. Soon revolutionary troops entered the palace and officers went to the apartment of the imperial family. To these the empress said:

"Let there be no violence. I now am only a sister of charity at the bedside of my afflicted children."

Teutonic Plot to Dynamite A New Jersey Reservoir?

Jersey City, N. J., March 14.—Acting on rumors of a plot to dynamite the 7,000,000 gallon reservoir at Boonton, thereby flooding the Passaic valley, where many large munition plants are located, the city commissioners late today passed a resolution calling upon Governor Edge to provide a military guard for the works. Thirty policemen, all of whom have served in the regular army, were hurried to the reservoir tonight under command of Major Norton, of the 4th New Jersey regiment. The policemen were supplied with rifles and ammunition from the 4th regiment armory. Mayor Fagon, in a telephone conversation with the governor, declared that the destruction of the reservoir would endanger thousands of lives and cause untold property damage.

The resolutions passed by the city commissioners asserted that information of the plot to dynamite the reservoir had come from "sources which appear to be credible." Persons desirous of injuring the resources of the government in the event of the hostilities with Germany, it was said, were under suspicion.

Two men, one said to have been an officer in the German army at the siege of Antwerp, and the other formerly an employe of a German steamship line, recently have been making observations and taking photographs of the reservoir according to word which reached the police.

LOT SALE—On Easter Monday April 9th. We will sell at auction about 75 lots, a part of the old Nutt Farm just west of the Furniture factories. These are splendid building lots. Close to furniture factories and Depot. At the same time we will offer for sale 2 three-room houses on same place. Terms, small cash payment, balance on 6, 12 and 18 months time. Banner & Lovell. 4t

Rank Foolishness.

You occasionally see it stated that colds do not result from cold weather. That is rank foolishness. Were it true colds would be as prevalent in midsummer as in midwinter. The microbe that causes colds flourishes in damp, cold weather. To get rid of a cold take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It is effective and is highly recommended by people who have used it for many years as occasion required, and know its real value. Obtainable everywhere.

GERMANY DETERMINED TO CARRY OUT U-BOAT WARFARE.

Talk of Peace in Germany Has Been Abandoned.

Washington, March 14.—Former Ambassador Gerard, fresh from Berlin reported to the state department today that when he left there was every evidence that Germany fully intended carrying out her ruthless submarine campaign, regardless of the prospect of war with the United States, and that talk of peace had been abandoned.

The former ambassador did not see President Wilson because the President still is confined to his room, but he conferred at length with both Secretary Lansing and Counsellor Polk, and went over with them in detail events leading to the break in diplomatic relations between Germany and the United States.

Mr. Gerard reported that German officials apparently considered the effects and consequences of submarine ruthlessness before proclaiming it, and so far as he could learn were confident of its success. When he left Berlin, however, the campaign was only in its second week and the Germans were still predicting the destruction of a million tons of shipping a month, the amount admitted by Teutonic experts to be essential for an effective starvation blockade of England. Since then, however, the average destruction has been below half that.

Food conditions in Germany when Mr. Gerard's party left were reported as serious, but not necessarily critical. This question is looked upon by the American government as very important because of its bearing upon the possibility of further peace moves by Germany in the near future.

The former ambassador arrived here from Key West, Fla., shortly after noon, and was met at the station by a group of officials including Counsellor Polk and Assistant Secretary Phillips, of the state department; Secretary McAdoo, Secretary Tumulty and Senator Hughes, of New Jersey. A formal statement was given out by Mr. Gerard saying that he would make his report to the government, and would not talk for publication. During the remainder of the day and night he held to his determination. He remained over here tonight, and will go to New York late tomorrow in time for a formal reception to be tendered him there Friday.

The report made by the former ambassador to the state department was understood to deal particularly with the treatment accorded himself and other Americans following the break in diplomatic relations, the efforts of the German government to get him to reaffirm the old treaty of 1828, with extensive changes, the general attitude of the German government and public towards submarine warfare, peace and relations with the United States, and conditions in Germany.

The department presented a scene of unusual activity with the many returned diplomats who accompanied Mr. Gerard reporting to their superiors. Some of them will be kept at the department, and others will be given new posts.

While officials are extremely anxious to learn the personal opinions of men fresh from Germany, there is not the slightest disposition to feel that the international situation can be affected in any way at this time. Germany is believed to have shown herself in the series of sinking such as the Laconia, the California and many others, including the American steamship Algonquin today reported sunk without warning, to be utterly unmindful of the country's rights or its possible participation in the war.

Regarding food conditions one of the best observers who has reported to the state department in months, said that 20,000,000 people directly connected with the army or government, another 20,000,000 people in the rural population and about 8,000,000 wealthy people are well fed, but that the balance, about 20,000,000 are in a serious plight.

The arrival of Mr. Gerard revived reports that he would be a candidate for mayor of New York next fall or that he would be sent to Tokio to succeed the late Ambassador Guthrie. He would discuss none of these reports today further than to say that he was paying no attention to politics at this time.

Regardless of whether he remains in the service of the government he undoubtedly will come back here within a few days to amplify his reports. He may see the President tomorrow but more likely will wait until another trip here because it probably will be several days before the President's physician will consent to his receiving callers.

Sign of Good Digestion.

When you see a cheerful and happy old lady you may know that she has good digestion. If your digestion is impaired or if you do not relish your meals take a dose of Chamberlain's Tablets. They strengthen the stomach, improve the digestion and cause a gentle movement of the bowels. Obtainable everywhere.

ROOSEVELT WANTS TO SEND ARMY TO EUROPE.

He Would Raise Army of 2,000,000 Men and Help the Allies Crush Germany.

New York, March 20.—Theodore Roosevelt, Elihu Root and Charles E. Hughes were speakers at a meeting of the Union League club tonight, at which a committee, headed by Robert Bacon, former ambassador to France, presented a report saying the United States was unprepared for war and urging it to get ready for action. Mr. Hughes presided.

Mr. Roosevelt charged Germany with murder and asserted that the United States was hiding, at present in safety, behind an English fleet.

"War is going on now," he said. "Germany is making war upon us and we are not striking in self-defense. Armed neutrality under these circumstances is war. It is feeble war, but it is war. Germany does not make feeble war and she neither understands nor respects it in opponents."

"For the last two and a half years we have seen the American pacifist meeching around. To try to curry favor with the German militarists, the American pacifist, the professional pacifist, has been the tool and the subordinate ally of the pro-German in this country."

"We want to prepare at once a great army; I should hope of a couple of million men so that if the war lasts for a year we will be able to be the decisive and controlling element in it."

"But do not wait for that great army. We can send an expeditionary force abroad now to fight in the trenches or fight in the Balkan peninsula, wherever it is desired. We can get that expeditionary force, if we choose to, within four or five months into the trenches and it will mean everything for the morale of France, of Belgium, of the allies generally, to have an American force under the American flag training in France and moving forward into the trenches to take its place beside the other armies, which are fighting our battles at this moment."

"Use our fleet in any way possible, but prepare our armed strength so that no one shall be able to say that if we do go to war we will make it only a 'dollar war.'"

County Union Meeting.

The Surry County Farmers Union will hold its next quarterly meeting with Parks Local, near Parks Station, on the Elkin & Alleghany Railroad on Thursday night and Friday, April 5 & 6th, 1917. It is earnestly desired that each local send a full delegation to this meeting.

Fraternally, J. M. Brinkley, Sec. Mar. 19, 1917.

OVERWORKED MOTHER

Finds Health in Our Vinol

Collinsville, Ill.—"I suffered from a nervous breakdown and terrible headaches and was tired all over, totally worn out and discouraged, but as I had a large family I had to work despite my suffering. I saw Vinol advertised and decided to try it, and within two weeks I noticed a decided improvement, and now I am a well woman."—Mrs. ANA BECKER.

We guarantee Vinol, our non-secret tonic, to strengthen and build up weak, run-down, overworked mothers, delicate children and feeble old people. L. W. West Drug Co., Mount Airy.

EGGS! EGGS!

Pure bred single comb white Leghorn and Rhode Island Reds. We have the kind that lay when eggs are high. Have layed regularly since early in October. Send us your order. Satisfaction guaranteed.

15 eggs 75 cents. Baby chicks \$1.00 per dozen. Custom hatching.

Mrs. Joe H. Norman, 216 Orchard St., Mt. Airy, N. C.

Eggs For Hatching!

From those Pure Bred Ringlet Barred Rocks. They won again this year, 1st cock 1st and 2nd hens, 2nd pen and 3rd best hen in the whole show. My pens are now ready for 1917 season. They are picked from 150 fine birds and mated with these prize winners—great layers—big strong vigorous birds, the kind the farmers like—everybody likes them. They won for me—let them win for you. Price of eggs, \$1.00 for 15, f.o.b. Mt. Airy.

ORA ROBERTS, Mt. Airy, N. C.

Mount Airy Iron Works

Foundry and Machine Shop
Repair Work a Specialty

A large variety of castings in stock, others made to order.

J. D. MINICK.

Mt. Airy, N. C., Aug. 26, 1915.

A Medicine for Women

For Forty Years Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has Relieved the Sufferings of Women.

It hardly seems possible that there is a woman in this country who continues to suffer without giving Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound a trial after all the evidence that is continually being published, proving beyond contradiction that this grand old medicine has relieved more suffering among women than any other medicine in the world.

Mrs. Kieso Cured After Seven Month's Illness.



Aurora, Ill.—"For seven long months I suffered from a female trouble, with severe pains in my back and sides until I became so weak I could hardly walk from chair to chair, and got so nervous I would jump at the slightest noise. I was entirely unfit to do my house work, I was giving up hope of ever being well, when my sister asked me to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I took six bottles and today I am a healthy woman able to do my own housework. I wish every suffering woman would try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and find out for herself how good it is."—Mrs. KARL A. KIESO, 596 North Ave., Aurora, Ill.

Could Hardly Get Off Her Bed.

Cincinnati, Ohio.—"I want you to know the good Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has done for me. I was in such bad health from female troubles that I could hardly get off my bed. I had been doctoring for a long time and my mother said, 'I want you to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.' So I did, and it has certainly made me a well woman. I am able to do my house work and am so happy as I never expected to go around the way I do again, and I want others to know what Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has done for me."—Mrs. JOSIE CORNER, 1668 Harrison Ave., Fairmount, Cincinnati, Ohio.

If you want special advice write to Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co. (confidential) Lynn, Mass. Your letter will be opened, read and answered by a woman and held in strict confidence.

C. S. Ward of Hickory is Killed By A Train.

Hickory, March 18.—C. S. Ward, local manager of the Chero-Cola plant here was almost instantly killed and Misses Pearl Frazier and Beatrice Sigmon were injured, when an automobile driven by Mr. Ward was struck by Southern railway westbound passenger train No 21 at Longview this afternoon at 5 o'clock. Mr. Ward died in five minutes. His home was at Columbus, Ga., and he came here six months ago as manager for the Chero-Cola plant. He was 38 years old, a widower and is survived by one son, Herchel. The automobile was headed for

Hickory when the accident occurred. The highway runs parallel with the railroad and Mr. Ward had backed up on the track, it was said, to make the turn. A blustering wind deafened the sound of the shrieks of the locomotive and he did not hear the warning.

The machine, a Buick roadster, was completely smashed and the oil tank and parts of the equipment thrown several yards. The locomotive hit the rear end of the auto and the impact broke Mr. Ward's neck. He was not badly mangled. Physicians who are attending them say the young ladies will recover.

NOTICE!

In order to accommodate Tax Payers, I will be at his desk in the rear of Mr. F. M. Poore's Store for the purpose of receiving taxes and payments on Street Improvement Assessments

Saturday evening next from 7 to 9 P. M.

Temporary daily hours 9 A. M. to 12 M., 2 to 5 P. M. at my office opposite F. M. Poore's Store between Banner Warehouse and Southern Express Co.

March 21st, 1917.

Yours with esteem,

WILL H. McDONALD,

Tax Collector and Town Treasurer.

Residence: BLUE RIDGE INN.

1917 BARK! BARK!

We are ready to contract for Chestnut Oak and Hemlock Bark. Call at our sheds for prices.

March 7th, 1917.

C. C. SMOOT & SONS CO.

A. JOHNSON, In Charge.